

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 1226

Commending EyeCare America for its work over the last 25 years.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 25, 2010

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas (for himself, Mr. WHITFIELD, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. KENNEDY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

RESOLUTION

Commending EyeCare America for its work over the last
25 years.

Whereas American public opinion polls have consistently identified fear of loss of vision as second only to fear of cancer;

Whereas in those public opinion polls Americans have said that loss of vision would have the greatest impact on their lives;

Whereas the National Eye Institute estimates that more than 11 million Americans have common vision problems;

Whereas approximately 35 million Americans experience an age-related eye disease, such as age-related macular degeneration (the leading cause of vision loss in older Americans), glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, or cataracts;

Whereas the number of Americans to experience an age-related eye disease is expected to increase to 50 million by 2020;

Whereas the Hispanic and African-American populations experience a disproportionate incidence of glaucoma, cataracts, and diabetic retinopathy, the latter being the leading cause of blindness in individuals of all races in the 25 to 74 year-old age group;

Whereas vision impairment and eye disease is a major public health issue;

Whereas 2010 begins the decade in which more than half of the 78 million baby boomers will turn 65 and be at greatest risk for aging eye disease;

Whereas much can be done to preserve sight with early detection and treatment;

Whereas EyeCare America, the public service program of the Foundation of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, works to ensure that eye health is not neglected, by matching eligible patients with one of more than 7,000 volunteer ophthalmologists across the country committed to preventing unnecessary blindness in their communities;

Whereas these volunteer ophthalmologists provide eye examinations and care for up to one year at no out-of-pocket cost to the patient, and seniors who are without insurance receive this care at no charge;

Whereas individuals throughout the United States may contact EyeCare America to see if they are eligible to be referred to a volunteer ophthalmologist; and

Whereas EyeCare America has helped over 1 million people since its inception in 1985 and is the largest public serv-

ice program of its kind in American medicine today:
Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives com-
2 mends EyeCare America for its work over the last 25
3 years.

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